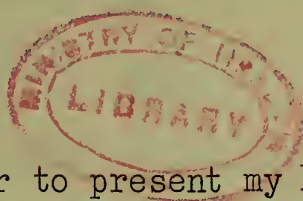


TO THE CORPORATION OF THE BOROUGH OF DROITWICH.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,



I have the honour to present my Report upon the public health of the Borough during the year 1937.

This Report is arranged according to the instructions given in Circular 1650 which was issued by the Ministry of Health in October, 1937.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF AREA.

Area.	1884 acres.
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1937.	4650.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Book.	1371.
Rateable Value.	£32,165.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.	£126.0.0.

The following are extracts from the vital statistics for the year :

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate.	69	36	33
Illegitimate.	4	1	3
<u>Still-births.</u>	1	1	0
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.		15.69	
Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.		15.91	
<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
	98	32	66
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.		21.08	
Deaths from Puerperal causes.		0	
Deaths from Measles (all ages).		0	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages).		0	
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).		1	
Deaths from Cancer (all ages).		10	

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. (i). Public Health Officers of the Authority.

a. Medical. Only one Medical Officer of Health, namely, myself, is employed by the Authority, and my appointment is a part-time one.

b. Others. Mr. R. E. Hulse, Cert. R. San. I., is a whole-time officer and combines the duties of Borough Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

(ii). There have been no developments or changes in the services provided under the following heads :

a. Laboratory facilities.

b. Ambulance facilities. These have been good, and have only been used for the transport of sickness and accident cases. All infectious cases were removed by special ambulances provided by the Isolation Hospital Authorities.

c. Nursing in the Home.

d. Treatment Centres and Clinics.

e. Hospitals.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i). Water.

The supply of water from the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company has been satisfactory, both in quality and quantity. All samples taken for analysis were satisfactory.

(ii). Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal have been satisfactory.

2. Rivers and Streams.

The River Salwarpe, a tributary of the River Severn, and the Birmingham-Worcester Canal pass through the town. No pollution of the River Salwarpe has occurred. The water of the Canal and the field ditches in its neighbourhood has been kept

under constant supervision and preventive measures applied when any mosquito larvae have appeared.

3. (i). Closet Accomodation.

During the year 39 privies and pail closets, i. e., all those situated within the area of the water carriage system, were converted to water closets and connected to the public sewers, leaving 3 privies, 31 pail closets and 7 earth closets which are situated in the rural and undeveloped portions of the Borough.

.(ii). Public Cleansing.

The methods in use for the collection and disposal of refuse have been satisfactory; the collection being carried out in a more efficient and expeditious manner by means of the new motor vehicle purchased by the Council.

(iii). Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Details of this will be found in the attached Tabular Statement.

(iv). Shops.

Inspections have been carried out and any necessary alterations have been done.

(v). Smoke Abatement.

No action has been necessary in this matter.

(vi). Swimming Baths and Pools.

There is one privately owned Swimming Pool in the Borough. Samples taken for bacteriological examination during the year were all satisfactory.

(vii). Eradication of Bed Bugs.

One house (not a Council house) was found to be infested. This house and contained bedding were fumigated on two occasions by the Local Authority.

4. Schools.

The sanitary condition of the Schools is fair; the water supply good. The scholars were inspected regularly during the year and all cases of infectious disease, together with contacts, were excluded.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year.

Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts),	361
and number of inspections made for the purpose,	406

Number of dwellinghouses (included above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925,	78
and number of inspections made for the purpose,	78

Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation,	Nil
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Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation,	43
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2. Remedy of defects without service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers,	43
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3. Action under Statutory Powers.

a. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 & 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs,	2
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Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices : By owners,	2
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b. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

1. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied,	9
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2. Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of informal notices : By Owners :	9
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c. Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made,	Nil
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Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders,	56
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d. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

No proceedings were taken under the above during the year.	Nil
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4. Housing Act, 1936. Overcrowding. Part IV.

a. (i).	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year,	61
(ii).	Number of families dwelling therein	....	65
(iii).	Number of persons dwelling therein,	....	398
b.	Number of new cases of overcrowding relieved during the year,	....	Nil
c. (i).	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year,	....	15
(ii).	Number of persons concerned in such cases,	....	74
d.	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding,	....	Nil
e.	Plans are in course of preparation for the erection of 70 houses to relieve overcrowding in the Borough and a site of $5\frac{1}{2}$ acres has been purchased for this purpose.		

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

a. Milk.

All premises used in connection with the production or sale of Milk were inspected regularly by the Sanitary Inspector during the year, and all samples taken by him were satisfactory.

b. Meat.

All meat shops, stores and slaughter-houses in the Borough were inspected regularly throughout the year and found to be satisfactory.

During the year 56 lbs. meat were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

c. Adulteration.

No action was taken during the year.

d. Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

This work is carried out by the County Bacteriologist at the Shirehall, Worcester.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever.	1	1	-
Diphtheria.	3	3	2
Erysipelas.	2	-	-

An analysis of the cases notified under age groups showed :

Scarlet Fever occurred in 1 case at age 2.

Diphtheria occurred in 3 cases at ages 9, 13 and 18.

Erysipelas occurred in 2 cases at ages 55 and 70.

Ten deaths occurred from Cancer during the year, an increase of two compared with the previous year, but as far as I am able to ascertain there was no undue prevalence of the disease in any particular organ.

Details with regard to new cases and mortality of Tuberculosis are as follows :

New Cases.

Age Periods.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
1 - 4	-	-	-	1
5 - 14.	-	-	-	1
15 - 24.	-	1	-	-
35 - 44.	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	2	2	-	2

Deaths.

35 - 44	-	1	-	-
45 - 54	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	1	1	-	-

No action was taken in 1937 under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, (affecting the employment of tuberculosis persons in the milk trade) or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925, or Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (affecting the compulsory removal to Hospital of cases of Tuberculosis).

My thanks are due to Mr. Arthur V. Holyoake, the Town Clerk; Mr. R. E. Hulse, the Borough Surveyor; and their Staffs for the help they have given me in compiling this Report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Keith S. Roden.

Medical Officer of Health.

20th July, 1938.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT OF THE SANITARY
WORK COMPLETED IN THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER
31st, 1937.

Infectious Diseases, etc.

Visits to houses on account of notifiable disease,	6
Houses disinfected after notifiable disease,	6
Other houses disinfected,	7

Housing.

Houses erected :	(a) By Local Authority,	80
	(b) Private enterprise or subsidy,	17

1. a. Number of houses inspected for housing defects,	361
b. Number (included above) inspected and recorded under Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925,	78
c. Number of houses found unfit for habitation,	Nil
d. Number of houses (excluding c) not in all respects fit for habitation,	43

2. Number of defective houses rendered fit after informal action,	43
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3. Housing Act, 1936. Sections 9, 10 and 16.

a. Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs or defects remedied,	2
b. Number of dwellings subsequently rendered fit after notice : By the Owner,	2

4. Public Health Acts.

a. Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs or defects remedied,	9
b. Number of dwellings subsequently rendered fit after notice : By the Owner,	9

5. Housing Act, 1936. Sections 11 & 13.

a. Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made,	Nil
b. Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders,	56

6. Housing Act, 1936. Section 12.

a. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made,	Nil
b. Number of Closing Orders determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit.	Nil

7. Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding.

a. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of year,	61
Number of families dwelling therein,	65
Number of persons dwelling therein,	398
b. Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year,	Nil
c. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved in year,	15
Number of persons concerned in such cases,	74
d. Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding,	Nil

Dirty houses dealt with,	1
Yards paved or repaved,	99

Moveable Dwellings, Caravans, etc.

No action was taken during the year.

House Drainage, etc.

Number laid or relaid,	143
Number trapped, ventilated and repaired,	28
Number of obstructed drains dealt with,	19
Number of house-drains tested,	98
Number of insanitary lavatories, sinks & urinals rectified,	5
In what parishes, if any, is there need for a sewerage scheme, or improvements in sewage disposal,	None
x Number of privy middens in use at end of year,	3
x Number of earth or pail closets in use at end of year,	39

x (In rural portions of the Borough).

Water Closets.

Number of privy or pail conversions including additional W.C's,	39
Number of defective W.C's remedied,	21
Number of slop closets converted to W.C's with fresh flush water,	Nil
Number of additional W.C's put in,	156

Scavenging.

Number of houses from which refuse was removed,	1327
Number of privies cleansed,	6
Number of ashpits cleansed,	31
Number of portable receptacles cleansed,	1237
Number of ashpits removed and ash bins provided,	8
How often is house refuse removed ?	Weekly.

Smoke Nuisances.

No action was taken during the year.

Offensive Trades.

No action was taken during the year.

Water Supply.

Number of wells sunk,	Nil
Number of wells cleansed and polluted,	Nil
Number of wells closed as polluted,	1
Number of houses supplied from waterworks during year,	102
Number of samples of water sent for analysis,	3
Number of houses with contaminated or deficient water supplies dealt with,	5
Is there a deficiency in any parish or part of District ?	No.

Slaughter Houses.

Public Slaughter Houses,	Nil
Number registered (private),	Nil
Number licensed (private),	5
Number of contraventions of byelaws or defects found,	Nil
Cases of slaughtering on unlicensed premises reported,	7
Number of inspections,	159

Milk.

No. of registered dairy farms in the area, 8
Number of Retailers in district, 20
Number of licences under Milk (Special Designations) Order :

	Pasteurised.	Accredited.	Tuberculin Tested.
Bottlers.	-	1	-
Retailers,	1	4	-
Producers.	-	2	-

Approximate number of milking cows in the District. 95

Canal Boats.

No action was taken during the year.

Lodging Houses.

There are no registered Lodging Houses in the Borough.

Houses let in Lodgings.

No action was taken during the year. There are no such houses registered.

Food.

Number of seizures as unfit for consumption. Nil
Amount voluntarily surrendered as unfit for consumption 56 lbs.
Amount destroyed as unfit for consumption : Meat : 56 lbs.
Cases of animals affected with Tuberculosis : Oxen , 1
Pigs, Nil

Food and Drugs' Act.

Samples taken for analysis. 14
Number of samples certified genuine, 14
Number of samples certified adulterated, Nil

Other Matters.

Rats & Mice (Destruction) Act. Cases dealt with, Nil
Verminous persons. Cases dealt with, Nil
Verminous houses. Cases dealt with, 1
Stagnant water. Cases dealt with, 1
Nuisances arising from domestic animals, Nil

Legal Proceedings.

No legal proceedings were taken during the year with regard to insanitary conditions or unsound food.

Outbreaks of Infectious Disease.

No serious outbreak of Infectious Disease or other abnormal illness occurred during the year.

Sanitary Improvements.

The whole of the earth and pail closets within the water carriage system have been converted to water closets and connected to the foul drainage system.

Chief Sanitary Requirements.

None.

Cases of Fever.

There were no cases of Typhoid or Paratyphoid Fever during the year.

General Remarks.

The new sewage disposal works are operating in a satisfactory manner. Periodical samples of the effluent are taken and analyses are good.

All privies and earth closets within the area of the water carriage system have been converted to water closets and connected to the public sewers. The few remaining - privies are situate in the rural and undeveloped portions of the borough.

Water supply has been adequate and the usual high quality has been maintained as shown by the analyses.

The final section of the Town Council's programme of dealing with unfit houses was completed with the erection of 80 houses. The cost of the houses and the estate development was approximately £30,000, and the rent of the houses is 6/6d. per week, inclusive of rates.

Plans are in course of preparation for the erection of 70 houses to relieve overcrowding in the Borough and a site of 5½ acres has been purchased for this purpose.

(SIGNED). R. E. HULSE,

23rd March, 1938.

Sanitary Inspector.

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